

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11285

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI VS

SUBJECT: TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION

REFERENCES: A) SAIGON 11257

B) SAIGON 11258

1. COL. DUONG HIEU NGHIA, CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC) , INFORMED EMBOFF JUNE 22 THAT THE GVNDEL HAD PROPOSED AND THE PRGDEL ACCEPTED LENGTHENED MEETING TIMES FOR THE TWICE WEEKLY PLENARY SESSIONS: THE TUESDAY AND FRIDAY SESSIONS WILL NOW CONVENE AT 1000, BREAK FOR LUNCH AT 1200 AND RE- CONVENE AT 1500 TO GO ON UNTIL " 1700 OR 1800, AS NECESSARY." THE JUNE 22 SESSION WAS THUS STILL MEETING WHEN EMBOFF MET WITH NGHIA.

2. NGHIA EXPLAINED THAT THE ARVN SPOKESMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF JUNE 21 THAT THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO INVITE THE CANADIAN AND POLISH RED CROSS SOCIETIES WAS " IN CONCEPT ONLY" (REF A). HE ALSO SAID THAT THE ANNOUNCED MEETING OF THE POINT OF ENTRY SUB- COMMITTEE OF THE TPJMC FOR JUNE 23 WAS OF SIGNIFICANCE ONLY BECAUSE IT IS THE FIRST SESSION OF THIS NEWLY- FORMED
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SUB- COMMITTEE. NGHIA DID NOT ANTICIPATE ANY GREAT PROGRESS IN THE SUB- COMMITTEE SESSION WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE CONCERNED WITH DEFINING CORRIDORS INTO THE POE' S AND FURTHER LINES TO " POINTS OF DISTRIBUTION." IT SEEMED OBVIOUS TO COL. NGHIA THAT THE PRGDEL WOULD DELAY IN DESIGNATING THREE ADDITIONAL POE' S AS LONG AS POSSIBLE IN HOPES OF SELECTING A COASTAL SITE.

3. NGHIA CORRECTED A POINT MADE THE DAY BEFORE TO EMBOFFS BY LRG PHAM QUOC THUAN, GVNDEL CHIEF, REGARDING THE GVNDEL' S PROPOSAL THAT THE PRGDEL DEPLOY TO THE FIELD PRIOR TO CONSIDERING A FURTHER DEPLOYMENT TO THE " NEW" SITES AS SPECIFIED IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE (REF B); THE GVNDEL PROPOSED ONLY THAT THE PRGDEL TEAMS DEPLOY TO THE SEVEN REGIONAL SITES, NOT ALL 26 SITES. FROM THERE, THE TWO SIDES COULD CONSIDER THE " NEW" SITES FOR FURTHER REDEPLOYMENT. NGHIA SAID THE BG PHAN HOA HIEP, GVNDEL DEPUTY CHIEF, HAD COUNTERED THE PRGDEL' S PROPOSAL TO MOVE DIRECTLY TO THE " NEW" SITES BY SAYING THAT WOULD DEPEND UPON ESTABLISHING ZONES OF CONTROL AND SINCE, " WE DONT' T KNOW WHERE YOU ARE, HOW CAN WE DEPLOY?"

4. COL. NGHIA SAID THAT HE AND BG HIEP WERE SCHEDULED TO VISIT A TOTAL OF SEVEN SITES IN DOWNTOWN SAIGON ON MONDAY TO INSPECT THEM FOR ADEQUACY FOR A POSSIBLE MOVE OF THE TPJMC CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS FROM TON SON NHUT. THESE SITES WILL BE TABLED AT TUESDAY' S PLENARY SESSION OF THE TPJMC.

5. ON THE MEETINGS OF TROOP COMMANDERS AS CALLED FOR IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, NGHIA SAID THE GVN FEARS THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD APPOINT ONLY SHREWD POLITICAL OFFICERS TO COMMAND AND THEN WOULD MOVE THESE PERSONNEL AROUND FROM PLACE TO PLACE IN ORDER TO ALWAYS HAVE THE ADANTAGE IN TALKSR AT ANY GIVEN LOCALITY.
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